

## NOTE XIX.

## ON AN UNDESCRIBED BIRD OF THE TIMALIA-GROUP

M A L I A   G R A T A.

BY

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A single skin of this bird was contained in a large collection of birds, made, in 1877, during an expedition to Macassar and the neighboring isle of Saleyer, under the leading of the well known botanical traveller, Mr. Teysman.

The bird in question belongs evidently to the group of the Timaliae, strongly characterized like the whole tribe of Formicivorae to which it belongs by the vaulted form of the tail, a characteristic which is found back in the owls in a most remarkable way.

In vain have I tried to find for the apparently unknown species a place in one of the numerous genera established in favor of the Timalia-group. It deviates from all of them in its general appearance, by its coloring, and by other modifications in the bill, wings and legs.

It will be seen from the following measures, that the *Malia grata* is a species of a very considerable size, that the wings are remarkably short, with the secondaries al-

most as long as the primaries, that tibia and tarsus are much elongated, that the hind-toe is long, that all the toes are provided with vigorous claws, and that the bill is only moderately developed.

Measures in Parisian feet:

	Inches.	Lines.
Total length . . . . .	11	6
Wing to point of primaries . . . . .	5	
» » » » secondaries . . . . .	4	8
Tail, inner feathers . . . . .	5	
» outer » . . . . .	3	9
Tibia . . . . .		30
Tarse . . . . .		23
Middle toe . . . . .		12
Nail of this toe, in a straight line . . . . .		5
Hind toe . . . . .		8
Nail of it in a straight line . . . . .		6
» » » along its curve . . . . .		8
Outer and inner toe, each . . . . .		8
Length of bill from forehead . . . . .		12
» » » » gape . . . . .		15
Height of bill at front . . . . .		4
Width at front . . . . .		5
Height of bill in the middle of its length . . . . .		8
Width at this point . . . . .		2

Bill moderate in size, sensibly curved, with the point somewhat more bent downwards, slightly notched behind this point, the compression reaches beyond the middle of its length, afterwards becoming gradually more large than high. Nostrils basal, forming an oval aperture in no way covered, opening into a tolerably large nosegrove.

Wings short and rounded. First of the primaries twenty-one lines shorter than the fifth, which is the longest of all. Sixth almost as long as the fifth, seventh only two, tenth four lines shorter than the fifth. Secondaries increasing in length from the first to the third, which is

only four lines shorter than the fifth of the primaries. They decrease afterwards in the direction of the tertiaries.

Tibia very long and robust. Tarsi, long, robust, covered on the foreside with eleven shields, on the hindside above with one entire shield, beneath with five shields and small scales. Nails very robust with the under-curve divided into two semilunar excisions. Tail strongly rounded.

Upper mandible black, but its margins, like the whole under mandible light ochraceous.

Whole upperside of the bird of a pure olive-color, washed on the neck, mantle and angle of wing with limon-yellow, with a shine of rufous brown on the tail-feathers and tinged with light yellowish brown on the outer webs of the primaries.

Chin, throat and chest of a dirty greenish limon-yellow spreading also over the breast and abdomen, but strongly washed with olive. Underside of wings and tail greyish olive. Flanks, under tail-coverts and feathers of legs olive. Tarse, toes and nails dark brown.